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Preserve and Use Tobacco Stalks

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AGRONOMY NOTES

SOILS • CROPS

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Preserve and Use Tobacco Stalks

When Kentucky's 1964 tobacco crop is stripped, there will be about 176,000 tons of stalks in and around stripping barns. There will be more than \$2 million worth of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium in them.

If these stalks are left outside the barn and exposed to winter rains, 61 percent of the nitrogen, 38 percent of the phosphorus, 83 percent of the potassium and 41 percent of the organic matter may be lost.

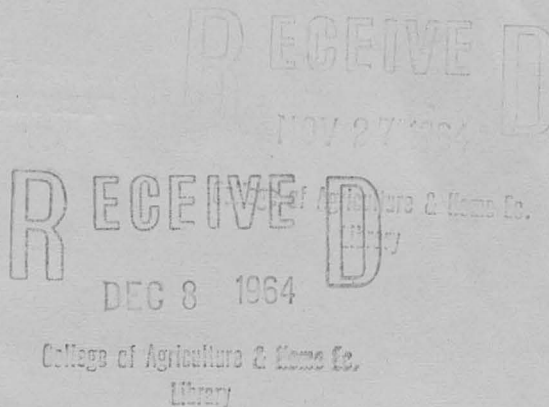
Preserve the value of the stalks by spreading them on fields soon after stripping or keeping them under shelter until they are spread next spring.

If tobacco stalks are spread in fall or winter, they should be put on lawns, pastures, meadows or small grain fields where a living root system will pick up the nutrients as they leach from the stalks. They can be spread on these same fields in the spring without loss of nutrients. Also there will be little loss of nutrients if stalks are spread on cultivated fields in the spring and plowed or disked in.

Do not use stalks from mosaic susceptible varieties or black shank infested stalks on tobacco beds or fields.

For more detailed information see Kentucky Leaflet 269.

George D. Corder



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